

Dear San Francisco Board of Supervisors and Department of Public Health Leadership,

We are writing to you from the depths of our hearts with a simple and urgent plea: please do not close the ARF and RCFE at San Francisco Behavioral Health Center. This is not just a facility to us it is our home, our community, and our place of healing.

Many of us have spent years being moved from one board and care home to another, often feeling like pieces on a chessboard instead of human beings. We've lived in places where we felt forgotten, unsupported, isolated, or far from the essential medical and social care we need. In those places, we struggled, physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

But here, at the ARF and RCFE, we have finally found what we had almost given up hoping for: a true home.

This is where we feel safe, where we are treated with kindness and dignity, where our mental and physical health have stabilized because of the care and support we receive every single day. Many of us have been able to stay out of psychiatric emergency services and hospitals for the first time in years. We are healing, not just surviving, but beginning to live fuller lives.

We celebrate every birthday and holiday here, together with staff and peers. We laugh, we decorate, we share meals and stories, just like any family would. These moments mean the world to us. They remind us that we are not alone, and that we belong. Please don't separate us. We are a family.

The staff here see us as people not just patients or case numbers. They greet us with warmth, they listen, they care. That kind of support doesn't just change lives it saves them. And the location matters deeply. Being near the hospital, on a public transit line, and close to our case managers and support systems makes it possible for us to live with dignity and independence.

To lose this place, or to see it turned into a locked facility, would be devastating. We would be forced to start over yet again, returning to the instability and trauma we've tried so hard to leave behind. We are terrified of losing this home the only place that has ever truly felt like one.

We are not just clients on a roster we are human beings, and we are finally beginning to thrive because of the environment and care we receive here.

Please, we ask you with compassion and urgency: do not take this away from us. Let us stay in the place where we feel safe, supported, and valued. Give us the chance to continue building our lives in the only home that has helped us do so.

With deep gratitude and hope,

Date: _____

The Residents of the ARF and RCFE